

1 people to do this. What we need now more than
2 ever is a media that is diverse, locally owned,
3 and one that supports a renewed inspiration
4 around citizenship and a process of governance
5 that is looking for the stewarding of this
6 country, not its demise. We seek a plurality of
7 expression, not a monopoly. We seek a media that
8 is capable of capturing the hope and the
9 possibilities of our future and not leaving us
10 mired in what Vandana Shiva called the
11 "monoculture of the mind."

12 The media must return to its roots as
13 a vehicle of democracy, not a diminisher of
14 democracy.

15 The Virginians also pointed to the
16 searcher of hearts that guided them. And I would
17 ask you the FCC --

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 MS. HERRNDON: Oh.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 Ann Lev.

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1 MS. BUKOWSKI: I'm Jessica Bukowski.
2 You called my name previously. Thank you.

3 I'm proud to stand before you as an
4 appointed Commissioner on the Citizens
5 Telecommunications and Technology Advisory Board,
6 which is a board that advises Seattle city
7 officials on community telecommunications and
8 technology issues. I'd like to briefly read to
9 you from a letter that we have drafted to you,
10 Chairman Martin.

11 Thank you.

12 "In a precedent setting media
13 ownership case in 1945, U.S. Supreme Court
14 Justice Hugo Black wrote: 'The First Amendment
15 rests on the assumption that the widest possible
16 dissemination of information from diverse and
17 antagonistic sources is essential to the welfare
18 of the public, that a free press is a condition
19 of a free society.'

20 "We now live in a time where this
21 principle appears to be increasingly fungible for
22 the right price. Currently a handful of major

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1 media companies control most radio, publishing,
2 and television resources. If federal media
3 policy is changed to allow national media
4 corporations an even greater consolidation of
5 media ownership, the public welfare will
6 necessarily suffer.

7 "Unlikely business partners create an
8 ethical slippery slope when it comes to the
9 information content of new media. A specific
10 incidence of this phenomena occurred in 1998 at
11 the Fox affiliate in Tampa, Florida. The station
12 fired two award winning reporters, Jane Akre and
13 Steve Wilson, and suppressed the story they had
14 produced about one of the Fox network's largest
15 advertisers, Monsanto, considering the negative
16 health effects of its genetically engineered
17 bovine growth hormone. Fox suppressed the story
18 after Monsanto threatened a lawsuit.

19 "In a story reported by Jeanette Batz
20 in the "St. Louis Riverfront Times" David Boylan,
21 WTVT, Fox's Tampa, Florida affiliate station
22 manager was quoted as saying, 'We, the Fox

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1 Network, paid 3 billion for these television
2 stations. We decide what the news is.'

3 "This is an ominous look at things to
4 come if the FCC rewrites its media ownership
5 policies to allow major networks to potentially
6 own all media resources in a given town or city.
7 If the local affiliate will not run a story
8 because it negatively portrays a major
9 advertiser, public health in that town or city
10 will be..."

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

12 Ann Lev. Michael Hobbs.

13 MR. HOBBS: Hi. You hear from the
14 corporations that what's important here is
15 economics, but what's important here is power.

16 First there is the directability of a
17 single corporation to shape the political
18 landscape through their editorial voice. Issues
19 today are very complex, and the science of
20 opinion manipulation is also very advanced.

21 Average Joe may say, well I heard
22 Proposition 12 is a bad idea on channels 4 and 9,

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1 on KBIG Radio and in the newspaper so I guess
2 it's a bad idea, and that conclusion might be
3 reasonable unless Mr. Joe knew that all those
4 media outlets were owned and controlled by the
5 same corporation.

6 This manipulation can be done overtly
7 with shock jocks ridiculing Prop 12, subtly with
8 newscasters simply giving short shrift to the
9 opposing veiwpoint, and even intelligently
10 through a well-crafted newspaper editorial. How
11 is average Joe to know he's being manipulated?

12 Secondly, conglomerated media can
13 control what advertising gets shown. It becomes
14 too easy for the big corporations to decide that
15 a Moveon.org or a National Right to Life ad is
16 too controversial or too inappropriate, making it
17 much harder for those voices to be heard.

18 When single corporations control many
19 media outlets in a single market, it may become
20 impossible for some points of view to be heard.
21 The more independent outlets there are, the more
22 democratic the process becomes.

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1 Thirdly, this restrictive effect could
2 be caused simply by economics, not censorship.
3 The best time slots, billboard locations, and
4 page placement may be reserved for advertisers
5 who can afford national ad campaigns and
6 cross-media campaigns. Smaller companies with
7 smaller advertising budgets can get shut out.
8 When media control is widely distributed, all
9 deals are small, and small companies can compete
10 on an even footing and in as many markets or in
11 as many media types as they can afford. And this
12 applies not just to commercial advertising --

13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

14 MR. HOBBS: -- but political
15 advertising as well.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Lee Colleton. Are
19 you Lee Colleton?

20 MR. COLLETON: Yes.

21 MR. LEE: 257, Dick Lee, did you call?

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry.

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1 MR. LEE: 257.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry. Are
3 you Lee Colleton?

4 MR. COLLETON: Yes.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: I'm sorry, sir.
6 I haven't called your name yet.

7 MR. COLLETON: Gentlemen of the
8 Commission, I'm a technologist as you yourselves
9 are, and I think you all know from the research
10 that your Commission has -- from the research
11 that the you have available, you know that
12 further consolidation of media in this country
13 will perhaps give short-term profit to the
14 organizations that are allowed to consolidate
15 that control, but will have a negative effect for
16 our democracy as a whole.

17 And I'm wondering what you guys are
18 thinking. Like is your interest to crash
19 democracy in, in service of short-term profits of
20 corporations? I'm guessing it is, which is
21 really depressing.

22 And something that I'd like to address

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1 to everyone, including the Commission, is that we
2 would be better served by increased access to the
3 airwaves not just in what stations we can tune in
4 to, but actual access, not the sort of access
5 that I can pay an arm and leg for over on my cell
6 phone, but genuine access to all parts of the
7 spectrum. I encourage you to open that access
8 and allow projects like the free software GNU
9 Radio, which would further this for everyone to
10 be able to receive and transmit FM at low power.
11 Like, you know, if there's a disaster, you'll be
12 able to hear from your neighbors, the people down
13 the street, as well as companies that can kick it
14 out at hundreds and hundreds of watts. I think
15 you have a responsibility to bring this sort of
16 thing to us. I mean, we have the technology.
17 Open the access please.

18 Thank you.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: David Holland.
20 Jessica Klein. Jessica Bukowski. Bob Hasegawa.
21 Joseph Aprile. I'm calling number 210 now,
22 Christine Virgillo-Emery.

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1 MS. VIRGILLO-EMERY: That's me. May
2 I see a nice smile before I start? Thank you.

3 Good evening, Commissioners. My name
4 is Christine Virgillo-Emery. I'm also known as
5 Ms. Music Girl, Zulu Nation member and DJ. I am
6 an active voter since I was 18, now 35, and a
7 seven year leukemia cancer survivor. I live in
8 the city of Bremerton in Kitsap County
9 Washington, which is a ferry ride away from
10 Seattle.

11 You have rules, regulations, and
12 guidelines in place for a reason. This country
13 was built on capitalism and competition. There
14 must be diversity in ownership so that we, as a
15 diverse nation, will have the freedom to choose.
16 It is the FCC's job to keep these checks and
17 balances in effect.

18 Where I live I barely get basic
19 broadcasting channels unless I subscribe to cable
20 that I have to pay for just to get the news,
21 information, and programming I need and want.
22 Soon I will be forced into buying a high

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1 definition TV because the TVs I have will soon be
2 obsolete, and the TVs I have work just fine, even
3 with the help of cable.

4 I have absolutely no choice in who I
5 want my cable provider to be with. What happened
6 to freedom of choice? Also with the cable
7 channels there are some Seattle based channels,
8 like S.C.A.N. TV, that I want to watch, but I
9 cannot receive them on my Bremerton paid cable.
10 Why am I not in the market when I am located just
11 across the water?

12 Speaking of programming, the news,
13 which is usually full of dramatic sensationalism
14 -- If I want dramatic sensationalism, I can watch
15 a movie or Jerry Springer. My needs are usually
16 not being met because the major stations are in
17 Seattle and I rarely hear of anything related to
18 where I live. Depending on what it is, like the
19 weather report, the ferry report, or something of
20 a negative manner. I rarely hear of any positive
21 news being reported anywhere. Why is that? News
22 used to be on the newsreels, and now I can get it

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1 in an instant, but is it accurate?

2 Programming of some of the sitcoms
3 that are on now, in my opinion, the quality is
4 just sour from story content to language content.
5 What happened to the guidelines?

6 Radio is another problem. There are
7 some stations that play the same songs over and
8 over until they change the rotation. Boring.
9 And their variety is just not there. And when a
10 new station comes on that plays variety, it
11 usually ends up going off the air because somehow
12 it is now competing with a major market station.
13 Where is the diversity in radio programming and
14 radio stations?

15 Internet radio is not always an option
16 either.

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

18 MS. VIRGILLO-EMERY: If the rules are
19 not broken --

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: We thank you for
21 your comments.

22 MS. VIRGILLO-EMERY: -- why change

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1 them? Please --

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 MS. VIRGILLO-EMERY: -- vote no on
4 media consolidation.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sondra Shulman.
7 Sue Peters. Larry Neilson.

8 MR. NEILSON: Good evening, Mr.
9 Chairman, Commissioners, fellow citizens. Thank
10 you for hearing my testimony this evening. I
11 work at the VA Medical Center here in Seattle
12 helping those who wear the uniform and those who
13 have done so with their health care needs.

14 Now, I've been around more than 50
15 years. That's long enough to remember things like
16 the Fairness Doctrine and the federal government
17 vigorously enforcing civil rights in antitrust
18 matters. Wow. Same country, amazing.

19 So nowadays we have 500 channels of
20 dreck. Paris Hilton and Britney Spears, Rush
21 Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly. Yep. And at the
22 same time we've seen a parallel decline in our

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1 nation's standing and our government's
2 credibility. Dare I suggest that there is a
3 connection.

4 With increased consolidation, our
5 political debate has been dumbed down and diverse
6 voices have been stilled. I think of Aaron
7 Dixon, our Green Party senatorial candidate who
8 was banned from the TV candidates' debate on the
9 grounds that he hadn't raised a million dollars.

10 Just on our patients' welfare I would
11 like to dwell for a minute. Day in and day out
12 at the VA we hear how American service members,
13 our patients, are coming back from multiple tours
14 in our ill conceived and apparently endless war
15 in Iraq. They're often minus an ear, an arm, a
16 leg, or an eye. The shrinks tell us of
17 widespread intractable symptoms of PTSD,
18 depression, and uranium poisoning.

19 These veterans and their families have
20 had their lives ruined. Now, our soldiers knew
21 they would be in harm's way when they signed up,
22 but it seems to me that they had a right to

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1 expect that it not be forfeited for frivolous
2 purposes, but only as a last resort.

3 Media consolidation made the war
4 possible and put these people at risk --

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
6 much.

7 MR. NEILSON: -- for bad and dubious
8 purpose.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Barbara Eis.

11 Would the following people come foward
12 please? Parker Lindner, Amber Morgan, Tim
13 Tattan, Duane Polich, Kade Mattox, Andy Weiss,
14 Cameron Coale, Clyde Wolbanks, Jeff Stonehill,
15 Kimberly Roper, Andrea Nash.

16 Parker Lindner.

17 MS. LINDNER: Hello. Do you guys need
18 to stretch or something?

19 One could say that allowing media
20 consolidation is akin to allowing genetically
21 engineered food to dominate our agriculture.
22 While at first it seems like genetic engineering

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1 assures resilience and scalability of the crops,
2 later we find that it also eliminates the
3 diversity that enables those crops to thrive
4 under a range of conditions and to propagate in
5 new ways in response to changing conditions.

6 So it is with our media. No matter
7 where you sit in the public spectrum you've
8 likely found yourself sometimes wondering why
9 you're seeing what you're seeing in the media and
10 what has been left out of the discussion. Two
11 examples of media stories that dominated the
12 media when other important things were occurring
13 in the world that come to my mind are Karen
14 Quinlan and Janet Jackson's breast. While the
15 national media obsessed on these stories, what
16 important stories were not told?

17 Today our civilization is facing the
18 greater demon -- global climate change and end of
19 peak oil. Solutions to these problems are being
20 generated in small acts in communities of concern
21 and in personal behavioral changes. These are
22 driven not by the ever expending media

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1 conglomerate, but by the network of voices that
2 share ideas neighbor to neighbor, community to
3 community. It's these natural systems that will
4 be the salvation to our civilization and need air
5 and nourishment to grow.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

9 Amber Morgan.

10 MS. MORGAN: Hi. My name is Amber
11 Morgan. My partner and I started a free form
12 online community radio called Hollow Earth Radio
13 January 1st of this year. We started this online
14 station because we were largely unimpressed with
15 what we heard on our FM band. It has so little
16 to do with our immediate lives.

17 In creating a locally owned radio
18 station we can focus on showcasing the actual
19 musicians and voices in our immediate vicinity.
20 One supporter told us that listening to our radio
21 feels like friends hanging out in her living
22 room. It's comfortable and approachable.

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1 I don't know if anyone thinks that
2 would happen with Clear Channel. I don't think
3 so.

4 When we started broadcasting we had no
5 budget. The two of us did everything. Very
6 quickly we received overwhelming support from the
7 community. Less than a year after we started and
8 with no budget for publicity, more than 40
9 volunteers run our station, seven of which are
10 still here tonight. We have more listeners every
11 day.

12 The internet is a wonderful resource,
13 but it is not a substitute for terrestrial
14 broadcast. We are a local community station, and
15 we want to reach our local community. FM radio
16 is the best way to do that. We feel it's almost
17 impossible for a small group of people like us
18 with no corporate backing to have access to the
19 airwaves. I firmly believe that allowing
20 consolidation of ownership would make it even
21 harder for small, locally owned and women-run
22 businesses to gain access to the air.

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1 I am just one of the millions of
2 people who plead to you, please make it easier
3 for citizens to gain access to these airwaves.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you. Tim
7 Tattan.

8 MR. TATTAN: Hi. My name is Tim
9 Tattan.

10 I've been a broadcast professional
11 since 1974. I've been paying attention to what's
12 been going on and with the FCC. I think its
13 interesting that -- I wanted to tell you that the
14 people who are looking for further relaxation of
15 ownership rules are not here. They're not
16 listening to any of these people. They don't
17 listen during the workday. They're not listening
18 to you now. What does that tell you about what's
19 going on here?

20 I might sound like kind of an old time
21 radio geek when I remind you about performance
22 versus promise and those requirements the FCC

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1 always scared us with years ago that it could
2 take away the license. You have a lot of power.
3 You need to exercise it for the common good.
4 That's what you're hearing from everybody here.

5 I didn't come here to insult you guys.
6 I didn't come here to lambast you. You've heard
7 enough of that already. But I want you to
8 recognize that there's some inconsistencies in
9 the way the regulation is going as it currently
10 stands.

11 For instance, high definition radio.
12 All of these broadcasters who are looking for
13 more frequency of channels are already going to
14 triple what they have with HD radio. So if
15 somebody has eight signals in the market, eight
16 times three. Why do they need more? What are
17 going to do with all of this? If they can't make
18 a profit, a sufficient profit with what they've
19 got, why don't you let somebody else use these
20 frequencies?

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. TATTAN: You talk about low power

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1 FM, which may serve one's suburb, why not let
2 some of these other community groups who don't
3 need to make a large profit have a full power
4 station so they can reach all the Native
5 Americans, all of the other minority groups in a
6 particular market? If the commercial guys aren't
7 happy with what they've got and they've got way
8 more than everybody else, there's a lot of other
9 people who are looking for those opportunities.

10 We're looking for you guys to step in
11 and do something about this. There's too much to
12 go into. Low power FM is already on second
13 adjacent channels in all major markets. It's
14 called national religious broadcasters who snuck
15 in when everybody else was trying to get on the
16 air. Let's just be consistent with the rules --

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
18 much.

19 MR. TATTAN: -- and make sure
20 everybody gets in.

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very
22 much.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Duane Polich.

3 MR. POLICH: Good evening. It's 59
4 degrees outside with a little light rain. And
5 now for tonight's news. Peru bombs USSR. World
6 near end. Film at 11. And now a word from our
7 sponsor.

8 I'm Duane Polich with Combinate Media
9 Group. The C-o-m in combinate stands for
10 Community Oriented Media. I've helped start a
11 small market AM daytime station and also owned an
12 FM station over in eastern Washington and have
13 been involved in various allocation proceedings
14 which have ended up in the hands of the big
15 broadcasters, Clear Channel and such.

16 When I got into broadcasting the -- It
17 was understood that broadcasters were expected to
18 operate in the public interest, convenience, and
19 necessity of the community. I like that. I
20 believe in that. I want to be a broadcaster that
21 does that.

22 Now, I'm looking for opportunities in

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1 the low power television stations. I want to be
2 able to serve the community. I want to be able
3 to talk about and to hear from the local
4 government, local schools, local businesses,
5 local churches, local community organizations,
6 people that are involved in the local
7 organization and are involved in the events and
8 issues that affect your daily life.

9 I just want to make sure that --
10 encourage the Commission that they provide an
11 environment where community oriented media and
12 localism can thrive, and basically, you know,
13 where did we go from operating in the public
14 interest, convenience, necessity to operating
15 into the convenience and necessity of public --
16 of the bottom line. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

19 Kate Matlox.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Kate Matlox is
21 a good friend of mine. I wonder if I could
22 possibly speak for another --

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1 AUDIENCE: (Unintelligible.)

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Andy Weiss.
3 Cameron Coale. Clyde Wolbanks. Jeff Stonehill.
4 Kimberly Roper. Andrea Nash.

5 I'm going to call another list of
6 names. Frank Brown, Haley Land, Rebecca Wolfe,
7 Jeff Bergler, Paul Wirsing, Matt Burk, Nicole
8 Robare, Ole Mara Peters, Maggie Metcalf, Robert
9 Jackson, Brenda Cooper, Jeff Kempe, Shel Kaphan.

10 Number 226, Frank Brown. Haley Land.
11 Rebecca Wolfe.

12 MS. WOLFE: Hi. This morning Amy
13 Goodman, on her program Democracy Now,
14 interviewed Dennis Kucinich. And she asked him
15 -- she said what control do you have -- let me
16 back up -- "Today in Seattle there is going to be
17 the last of the FCC hearings as Kevin Martin, the
18 Chair, wants to expedite media consolidation. He
19 says he'll be taking a vote around December 18.
20 What control do you have over this?"

21 And answered, "Well, as the Chairman
22 of the Domestic Policy Subcommittee I can and

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1 will hold hearings on the FCC's decision making
2 process."

3 And then what I want to talk about
4 most of all is my concern about how the
5 mainstream media or the corporate media are
6 choosing our candidates for the presidency. I
7 think they're trying to decide who's going to be
8 the next president, and I think that is so
9 dangerous.

10 And the title of her program Democracy
11 Now really kind of implies that we do not have a
12 democracy. We want a democracy. We haven't had
13 a democracy for a very long time. And so in
14 order to not have the media choosing our
15 candidates for us, we have to get control over
16 this. We, the people, have to get control over
17 this.

18 And Kucinich went on to say there is
19 an attempt by the media to manage this election,
20 to try and determine the outcome of the election
21 prior to the people casting votes. It's just
22 another way to try to defeat the public interest

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1 and to make of the election a kind of farce.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Jeff Bergler.

5 Paul Wirsing. Matt Burk. Nicole Robare. Ole

6 Mara Peters. Maggie Metcalfe. Robert Jackson.

7 Brenda Cooper. Jeff Kempe. Shel Kaphan. David

8 Marks. Clare Beach.

9 I'm sorry?

10 MR. MARKS: David Marks.

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: David, before you

12 speak I would just call a few more names. Just

13 give me one more moment. I these people would

14 please come down: Clare Beach, Mark Holland,

15 Mira Latoszek, Ezra Basom, Gopala Krishman

16 Parameswaran, Lisa Wright, Jason Farhman, S.

17 Arsalan Bukhari, Mark Sabo, George Atherton, Mr.

18 Friedman.

19 David Marks, please.

20 MR. MARKS: You're going the wrong

21 way. You're going the wrong way. When

22 corporations get too large and powerful, it is in

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